

SPORT FISHING

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 1-KS-C-14-17

Issued at: Petersburg, Tuesday,
May 23, 2017

Effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday, May 25, 2017
Date:

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday,
July 15, 2017, unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order.

EXPLANATION: This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 01-KS-C-07-17 issued on March 6, 2017 and reduces the sport fish bag and possession limit for king salmon in District 8 and closes the king salmon sport fishery in a portion of District 8 immediately adjacent to the mouth of the Stikine River. This action is being taken to conserve Stikine River king salmon.

REGULATION: The provisions of 5 AAC 47.021(n)(1) are added by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective from 12:01 a.m. Thursday, May 25, through Saturday, July 15, 2017:

5 AAC 47.021. Special provisions for seasons, bag, possession, annual, and size limits, and methods and means for the salt waters of the Southeast Alaska Area.

(n) In the Petersburg/Wrangell vicinity:

(1) In the waters of District 8 as described in 5 AAC 47.057(d)

(A) The king salmon bag and possession limit is one king salmon, 28 inches or greater in length.

(B) In the waters of Grey's Passage enclosed by a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point, Point Highfield to an ADF&G regulatory marker located at the eastern entrance of Blind Slough, to an ADF&G regulatory marker on the eastern shore of Mitkof Island at lat. 56°40.769'N, long. 132°39.281'W to the mouth of Jap Creek on the mainland shore, sport fishing for king salmon is closed.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:

Patrick Fowler
Petersburg/Wrangell
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION: Inseason forecast for Stikine River king salmon indicate that the lower bound of the Stikine River king salmon biological escapement goal range (14,000–28,000) is not likely to be met. Given this newly available inseason information, further restrictive action is being taken to reduce the harvest of Stikine River king salmon by closing the king salmon

sport fishery in waters immediately adjacent to the Stikine River and continuing the previously established restrictive sport fishing regulations in the remainder of District 8.

The king salmon sport fishery in District 8 is managed under the directives of the Southeast Alaska King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 47.055) and in times when an allowable catch is present (as determined by the Transboundary Technical Committee of the Pacific Salmon Commission), may be modified by the Stikine River King Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 47.057). The 2017 preseason terminal forecast was 18,300 large king salmon which indicated an allowable catch was not present. In addition, due to the low abundance of Stikine River king salmon projected by the 2017 preseason terminal forecast, restrictive action was taken in the sport fishery effective May 1st 2017, which reduced the sport fish bag and possession limit in District 8. The newly available inseason forecast now indicates the terminal run is expected to be lower than the preseason forecast and will likely fall below the lower bound of the biological escapement goal range. This action is being taken to conserve Stikine River king salmon by closing areas to king salmon fishing and continuing the reduced bag and possession limits in the remainder of District 8 during the time period when Stikine River king salmon are present in the marine fishery.

Previous Emergency Orders Affected:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 01-KS-C-07-17. Emergency Order 01-KS-R-11-17, establishing king salmon regulations for Southeast Alaska, remains in effect.

DISTRIBUTION: The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 1 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, P. O. Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824, (907) 465-4270; and at the Petersburg Area Office, 16 Sing Lee Alley Petersburg, AK 99833-0667 (907) 772-3801; and, at the Wrangell Area Office, 215 Front Street, Wrangell, AK, (907) 874-3822.